

# REPORT 2019 April Cycle

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Connections Individual and Family Services		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 74-2179169	
<b>Address:</b> 1414 West San Antonio Street	<b>City:</b> New Braunfels	<b>State:</b> TX	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78130
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.connectionsnonprofit.org/">http://www.connectionsnonprofit.org/</a>		<b>Fax:</b> (830) 629-6571	

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Kellie Stallings	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> Kstallings@connectionsnonprofit.org	<b>Phone:</b> (830) 629-6571

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Jacob Huereca	<b>Title:</b> Residential Services Administrator	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> jhuereca@connectionsnonprofit.org	<b>Phone:</b> (830) 629-6571
-------------------------------	---	---	---------------------------------

## REPORT INFORMATION

<b>Report Funding Cycle:</b> 2019 April Cycle	<b>Report Date:</b> 02/14/2020 12:00 am
--	--

**1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.**

Awarded Amount: 25,000	Date: 04/10/2019
------------------------	------------------

**2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.**

In 2019 Connections set an ambitious goal to do a complete renovation of our children's shelter and administrative offices at our headquarters in New Braunfels, Texas. With the generous grant from the Najim Charitable Foundation and other foundations, Connections was able to achieve it's goal of a complete overhaul of our building that has been dated back to the early 1900's. Connections aimed to complete this project to prepare for national accreditation in the Summer of 2020 and we completed the project well ahead of our December 31st, 2019 deadline. Our main objective the funding provided was to replace the flooring in our children's shelter, add durable wall coverings and replace an existing roof that previous allowed water to leak into the building. Additionally, funds expended were utilized to replace flooring at our counseling center as well as replace the roof on that building as well. The project was very successful and has changed the entire feel or our location, thanks to the support provided by the Najim Charitable Foundation. On October 29th we were able to host an open house that attracted members of our community to our location to show off the renovations and since have received numerous compliments from our community partners of the quality work that was completed. The project has prepared our organization for success in achieving our goal of national accreditation as well as created a positive environment for the youth and families that we serve.

**3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.**

There were no changes from the original proposal and/or circumstances related to funding from the Najim Foundation.

**4: What needs were addressed?**

Recently, the federal government, through the Family First Prevention Services Act, and the state government, through its Community Based Care models, are requiring that providers serving children in the child welfare systems meet higher standards to provide exemplary care, and that facilities providing congregate care for children provide a safe, qualified, and welcoming environment for traumatized youth. As part of the anticipated increase in expectations, the agency proactively applied for national accreditation through the Council On Accreditation; the federal government considers accreditation as proof of "qualified residential treatment provider" for those serving youth in facility settings, such as our children's shelter. The agency is currently in the self-study process which is initially due in March 2020, and the accreditation review site visit is scheduled for July 2020. While the agency has made many great strides in its services to provide cutting-edge quality care, there was much to be done to improve the quality of the facilities in which the agency's services are provided so that individuals and families are served in an environment which helps them feel safe, valued, and with the opportunity to make positive life changes. Thus, funds from the Najim Charitable Foundation were utilized to help the agency meet accreditation standards, continue its current mission, and strive toward improving its facilities to better fit its ultimate vision for the target community. The facility improvements have greatly improved the aesthetics of our environment but will help us achieve the long term vision of becoming nationally accredited.

**5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?**

For the purposes of this grant, our evaluation was based on the completion of the renovations specific to the funding we received. Most objectives were completed prior to October 29th, 2019 with one roofing section completed prior to December 31st, 2019. One parking lot regrade is still planned, but plans are delayed pending city approval and additional funds. The new flooring has made an incredible difference for the children who are living at the shelter as well as at our counseling location where children come in to seek out healing. The roof at both locations was in great need of repair and replacement due to water leaks in both buildings; the leaks have now been resolved. The wall coverings were intended to give our older building a fresh, clean look while protecting the walls when the children may get angry or upset. We no longer have holes being punched in our walls and the wall coverings are easy to clean, thus reducing the upkeep of our space. The wall coverings also provide a very nice aesthetic to the environment which helps the children know that they are valued and their environment is important. The Najim Charitable Foundation was invited to participate in our open house on October 29th, 2020 and Melissa Reed was able to view the renovations once they were completed. We would welcome the Foundation members to come out and tour the site and we are very thankful for the support to have completed the project.

**6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?**

Since the project was facility improvements, there project has been completed. However, we are still seeking funding to re-grade our parking lot and that is the last remaining task for the original improvement project associated with our main campus. This is a low priority item for our organization; this task will prevent future flooding in the event of a heavy rain storm, so we are hopeful to secure funds for this project in the near future. In the future, the organization may need to repair and renovate many years down the road, and if and when that may occur we hope to partner with the Najim Charitable Foundation at that time. Although the facility improvements have been completed, the services provided in the improved facilities is ongoing. This includes counseling for youth and families, substance abuse prevention, counseling from crime victims, and emergency shelter for youth ages 5-17 who have run away, are homeless, are experiencing family conflict, or who have entered the foster care system due to abuse or neglect. These services are primarily sustained through governmental grants and contracts, with occasional support from charitable foundations.

**7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.**

The funds received made a dramatic impact on our children's shelter and counseling building. The investment made by the Najim Foundation will have a lasting impact on the children and families serviced by our organization and we are extremely grateful for the support. As we near our accreditation site visit, our organization has strong confidence in the aesthetics of our buildings, which provide a calm, safe, and welcoming environment for children and families who seek our help; the facilities are a major improvement from a year ago when we first sought assistance from the Najim Charitable Foundation. Connections is very thankful for your partnership with our organization and we hope that the Najim Charitable Foundation continues to invest into the lives of the children and families served by Connections.

**8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.**

<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Najim Requested Funds</b>	<b>Project Funds Actual</b>	<b>Najim Funds Allocation</b>
Reinforce structural support in shelter	\$10,000	\$0	\$8,111	\$0
Replace flooring in two buildings (14,000 sf)	\$147,000	\$10,000	\$49,265	\$10,000
Replace roof of shelter and counseling center	\$53,000	\$5,000	\$45,790	\$5,000
Add damage-proof wall coverings to shelter	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$55,090	\$10,000
Grade buckled asphalt lot and walkway	\$20,000	\$0	\$30,983	\$0
Painting-Contingency	\$15,000	\$0	\$117,301	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$265,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$306,540</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**Signature**

Kellie Stallings